The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives herein accurate and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, centering in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and statements of other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1518 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 20

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP FRARL

Labor knows all too well that a "fifth column" already has been established in this country by the enemies of the United States, the enemies of freedom and the enemies of democracy.

This penetration of our national loyalty—the first line of defense of any country—is not the work of the Nazis but of their co-partners in international crime, the Communists.

Their "Trojan Horse" tactics have enabled the Communists to capture control of the CIO and to dominate its policies.

Because the CIO follows the Communist Party line it has become a distinctly un-American organization.

Because John L. Lewis, leader of the CIO, follows the Communist Party line, he is giving aid and comfort to those who, no matter how they may disguise their motives, are the enemies of this country.

There are still about a million workers, men and women who have retained their membership in the CIO. The large majority of these workers are loyal Americans. But their leaders for the most part are not. And these leaders are now doing their utmost to undermine the loyalty of American workers.

The CIO-Communist Partnership

Lest this indictment appear too sweeping to those unwilling to face the facts squarely, we are prepared to present abundant and indisputable evidence to support our charges.

First, the Communist Party in the United States fully supports, commends and approves the program and policies of the CIO and its leader, John L. Lewis. Every issue of the Daily Worker and other Communist publications attests to this truth.

Secondly, the policy and the program of the CIO now practically coincides with the policy and program of the Communist Party in the United States.

Thirdly, the CIO maintains friendly and cooperative relations with the Communist-dominated labor movements in Mexico and Cuba which openly denounce the United States as "imperialistic" and praise the "peace policies" of Soviet Russia.

Fourthly, despite any number of shrill denials, the fact remains that the CIO is honeycombed with Communists who have everything but the United States at stake in it and whose first allegiance is to Soviet Russia.

Fifthly, you can search the records and fail to find a single instance of any statement by John L. Lewis denouncing Soviet Russia or Nazi Germany in the past two years, but you will find numerous statements and speeches denouncing President Roosevelt and deriding many other outstanding leaders of our country.

If we were to go on with this enumeration we would run out of numbers. There is a mass of evidence that may appear merely coincidental to the uninitiated but which is deeply significant.

A Few Instances

For instance, the moment the Communist Party turns its propaganda guns on J. Edgar Hoover for investigating Red activities, we find John L. Lewis and his CIO underlings clamoring in high heaven against the chief of the "G" men for fancied invasions of "civil liberties."

For instance, when President Roosevelt forthrightly spoke out in public against the brutal, inhuman policies of Soviet Russia, the Communist Party undertook a campaign of vilification against the President. So did John L. Lewis and every Red-infested CIO union he could control.

For instance, the Communists started clamoring for the establishment of a labor party in this country to embrace all the malcontents and to be dominated and formed from organizations manned by misguided youths, radical Negroes, share-croppers, pensioners and such like. Presto, Mr. John L. Lewis does the same thing.

We could go on citing such instances indefinitely. But what we want to emphasize is not the evidence but the fact that with the aid of the CIO the Communist Party has succeeded in mobilizing in the labor movement of this country of greater proportions and of more potential danger than the traitorous groups which in Czecho-Slovakia, Austria and Norway betrayed their homelands to the Nazis.

We are not trying to exaggerate the danger. Why did Mayor La Guardia make concessions to the CIO Teachers Union in New York City, even in violation of his own publicly stated understanding of the Civil Service laws? Because of the fear of sabotage in the subways by Communist agents in this union.

Read the testimony before the Dies Committee as to the dangers to the national defense from Harry Bridges' control of Communist agents in the CIO National Maritime Union and in the CIO Communications Union which includes radio operators aboard American ships.

To be alert to these dangers, to take measures to safeguard our country from Communist penetration, to keep all activities of Communist agents here under the closest scrutiny—this is not Red-baiting but sheer common-sense precaution for our national defense.

Randolph and the Negro Congress

(In the following article A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (A.F.L.), gives his reasons for withdrawing as honorary president of the National Negro Congress and for severing all relations with that organization.)

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

I am convinced that until the stigma of Communist control is wiped from the National Negro Congress it will never rally the masses of the Negro people.

The procedure, conduct and policies of the Negro Congress, as set up in this third national meeting, will make its influence in the affairs of the American Negroes, short lived. The American Negroes will not long follow any organization which accepts dictation and control from the Communist Party. The American Negro will not long follow any organization which accepts dictation and control from any white organization.

In the last national Executive Committee meeting in New York City, Brother John P. Davis was authorized to go out and borrow $1000 to help put the Third Congress over. He informed me that he had borrowed it and mentioned the name of a man. I was given no specific pledge of domination by the Communists and the CIO, I would not stand for re-election for President.

I quit the Congress because I was opposed to linking it up with Labor's Non-Partisan League, the political mouthpiece of the CIO, since this was a departure from the original mission upon which there could be general support and unity of purpose for rallying the Negro masses.

I quit the Congress because I was opposed to it, or its officials, expressing sympathy for the Soviet Union, which is the death prison where democracy and liberty have wailed their "last mile" and where shocking "blood purges" have cut any and all dissenting voices to pieces as dissenting opinions from dictator Stalin.

The Negro people must be aware of all subtle forms of Communist propaganda poison to save themselves from destruction. It seems to be beyond the realm of debate that the Negro people cannot afford to be cast in the handicap of being black, the hardcap of being red.

36-CENT MINIMUM WOOL TRADE WAGE APPROVED

Washington, D. C.—A 36-cents-an-hour minimum wage for employes in the wool manufacturing industry, effective June 17, was approved by the Congress-backed Wage-Hour Administrator. It was recommended by an industry committee composed of representatives of the manufacturer, labor and the public.

THIRTY HOUR WEEK URGED BY MEANY

Shorter Hours Held Necessary to Provide Employment for Jobless Workers.

New York, N. Y.—The advantage of the 30-hour week as a practical method to provide employment for the millions of unemployed working men and women was emphasized by Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor in an address here at the Conference on the Social and Economic Consequences of the Shorter Work Week sponsored by the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and affiliated unions with the cooperation of the Workers Education Bureau of America.

"Reduction in the hours of work is one of the foremost objectives of the organized labor movement," Mr. Meany said. "For sixty years the American Federation of Labor has championed the fight for the shorter work week and the shorter work day. Throughout these years the shortening of the working hours has been one of the most bitterly fought proposals, one which has offered men and women workers a rallying point for self-organization and mutual protection."

Between 1880 and 1920, Mr. Meany declared, the American Federation of Labor "enabled wage earners to reduce the basic work week from 60 hours, adding 15 hours to their leisure time." With wages during the same period increasing from 19 cents an hour to 72 cents. "Today," he said, "the average worker in the industry is 38 hours—a reduction of 25 hours per week from the average weekly hours which prevailed sixty years ago."

Although emphasizing the benefits of shorter hours, he stressed the need for the workers to mitigate the strain of speed-up forced on by mechanized industry and in protecting and bettering their physical welfare and providing leisure time. Mr. Meany stressed its great importance in connection with the unemployment problem.

"The most important objective of the shorter work week program adopted by labor," he said, "is the direct method to reduce unemployment," he declared. "Unemployment today is the very heart of our economic problem. Our ability to solve this problem determines the future course of our progress as a nation. Labor offers the shorter work week as a practical and feasible method that has successfully withstood the challenge of its opponents and critics."

Stressing the failure of industry to adjust rising man-hour productivity to manufacturing needs, he said that to 1929 rose 46 per cent," with 1,800,000 unemployed in 1929, Mr. Meany continued:

"For the past ten years technological advances continued to take place and productivity per man hour has continued to rise. During this period from 1929 to 1939 industrial employment declined by nearly 2 million 3 million jobs, yet the volume of 1939 production equaled that of 1929. In these ten years the average hours of work in manufacturing were reduced from 44 to 38 hours. But the same work-week been maintained as in 1929 our unemployment problem would have been even larger.

"We have no indication that the rate of technological displacement will slow up appreciably in the immediate future. This means that unless we take drastic steps to shorten already unemployed, workers will continue to be displaced from industry and rendered jobless. The immediate problem before us is how to offset this tide of unemployment and to give America already unemployed into productive activity.

"Labor believes that no solution to this problem is workable and that no substantial gain in employment can be achieved without a further shortening of the work-week. To this end labor proposes the thirty-hour week as a first step toward the 30-hour week to be attained in industry. Reduction in hours must be accompanied by and with the maintenance of the same pay, if adopted by industry generally, will not only put the unemployed back to work but will also enlarge the purchasing power of the workers necessary to sustain greatly enlarged production activity."

World Labor Unites In Electing Mr. Green to IFTU Executive Board

Paris, France.—Labor organizations from every nation except New Zealand voted to elect William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, to the Executive Board of the International Federation of Trade Unions.

Ballots for Mr. Green, it was announced here, came from Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. The three Latin American countries, Argentine, Mexico and the United States, did not take part in the election. New Zealand cast its vote for Vincente Lombardo Toledano, Caremunist labor leader of Mexico.

The Executive Board postponed decision regarding the application for affiliation of the Cuban Confederation of Workers "in view of the present circumstances." This organization is headed by Communists.

A report was received charging that Soviet and German authorities have shanghaied Polish leaders in Poland and Lithuania, and that all Polish labor unions have been dissolved. The report added: "The Russian regime is surrounded by misery and terror throughout the country. The whole of civilized humanity is at war with the International Federation of Trade Unions in its energetic protest against the shameful labor policy of Poland's two barbarian oppressors."

The IFTU pledged itself to help members of the Polish labor movement who are still inside Poland or who are refugees abroad "to carry on their fight for the independence of their country."

On May Day manifesto the IFTU expressed the deepest sympathy of the international labor movement for the victims of Soviet and Nazi aggression and, speaking for workers in democratic countries, declared: "They proclaim their faith in the final triumph of democracy."

GREEN OFFERS PLAN TO INCREASE JOBS

A. F. of L. President Outlines Economic Program in Nation-wide Address.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green disclosed the essential features of the American Federation of Labor's program for reemployment and returning economic prosperity in a nationally broadcast address over an N.B.C. network.

"The real problem," he said, "is not over-production and surpluses but under-development of the purchasing power of our own people."

It is foolish to hazard involvement in foreign wars by seeking out new foreign markets in these troubled times, Mr. Green declared, when the American domestic market has not been fully utilized.

"American purchasing power has not kept pace with the increased efficiency of our factories and farms through the introduction of new and improved methods and machinery," Mr. Green charged. "We have developed our machine power at the expense of our man power.

"Millions of workers have been displaced by technological changes in industry and farming. The hours of work of those who have retained their jobs have not been sufficiently reduced to compensate for their increased productivity. Wages have not kept step with the increased value of work. The has been a cumulative process which American can purchasing power, which is the lifeblood of American industry and American agriculture, is running thin."

The only logical cure, Mr. Green insisted, is to reverse "this unhealthy process." He added:

"Let industry pay the highest wages possible. Let the universal thirty-hour week be applied. Let production expand, gradually but consistently.

"The beneficial results would be manifold. First of all, the unemployment log-jam would be broken. Millions of workers would return to well-paying jobs in private industry in a steady stream. Billions of dollars would be added to the national income and to the purchasing power of our people. The Government would be freed from the high cost of providing unemployment relief and the heavy burdens of taxes could be lifted from business.

"We suggest that a 10 billion dollar increase in our national income would be sufficient to provide reemployment for the millions of workers now unemployed. Considering that 80 per cent of all families and single persons in America have incomes of less than $3,000 per year, and that three-fourths of them have incomes under $1500 per year, we must realize that this is the income group that buys 75 per cent of all consumer goods and on the American standard of living nearly all of that with the release of the purchasing power of the wage earners and through the maintenance of the natural wages at the level necessary to sustain a rise in the national income, enough productive activity can be generated to achieve this reemployment. The question is how to release the flow of goods and services, how to release the pent-up savings and investment funds in the use of money, equipment, natural wealth and human energies."

Mr. Green took advantage of the broadcast to extend greetings to the San Francisco Union Label and Industrial Exhibition and to congratulate the A. F. of L. members on the West Coast for their enterprise in making this exhibition a success. He said:

"I am proud of the fact that organized labor is not waiting but is continuously striving to forge ahead. I congratulate the members of the American Federation of Labor on the West Coast who are promoting the San Francisco Union Label and Industrial Exhibition. They are doing their part. Because the union label on a product means that it is made by men and women who are paid high-standard union wages and who work under high-standard union conditions. The workers of this country are its greatest consuming market. Any plan that overlooks or ignores the need of purchasing union labeled goods, the San Francisco exhibition is serving to promote the best interests of our country."

News Briefs

OVER 100 PLANTS SIGN PAPER MAKERS CONTRACT

Albany, N. Y.—President Arthur Huggins of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers announced that his organization jointly with the other A. F. of L. affiliates in the paper and pulp industry have completed renewing and signing agreements covering more than 100 plants in the United States and the week with pay and wage increases were secured for members of the unions involved. Nearly 20,000 union members are affected. The unions allied with the paper makers are Pulp and Sulphite Workers, Electrical Workers, Engineers, Firemen and Oilers, Carpenters, Machinists and Plumbers. Mr. Huggins said additional agreements to be negotiated within the next 30 days will more than double these figures.

MIGRATORY LABOR PROBE PLANNED BY HOUSE UNIT

Washington, D. C.—By a practically unanimous vote the House of Representatives has authorized the appointment of a special committee to investigate the problem of migratory labor and recommend legislation for the rehabilitation of migratory farm families. President Green of the American Federation of Labor personally appealed to Chairman Sabath of the House Rules Committee to grant prompt consideration of the bill.

Representative John H. Tolan (Dem.), who sponsored the legislation in behalf of the California delegation, declared the situation is so acute that it cannot longer be ignored with safety. He said 27 different agencies are "now pecking away" at the problem, but making little headway in its solution. Representative Bertrand W. Gearhart (Rep.), from an agricultural district in California, who also supported the bill, said that "migrant families living in ditch-bank camps must be provided with shelter, a piece of land, a new opportunity."

BUILDING TRADES DEPT. ENDS TWO N. Y. DISPUTES

Washington, D. C.—The executive council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the A. F. of L. settled jurisdictional disputes on two New York projects.

Regarding a dispute between electrical workers and building and common laborers on the Mid-Town Tunnel in New York, which electrical workers struck, it was decided the electrical work should do all electrical installation work.

A dispute between sheet-metal workers and lathers as to who would place accoustical material in the Triborough Hospital was settled by ordering the latter to make by-the-day decision to be made by a board of arbitration of the International Union of New York and the employers' association.

BAN ON PRISON GOODS SALE IN D. C. URGED

Washington, D. C.—The House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia was urged to report a bill sponsored by Representative Ralph A. Gamble (Rep.) which would prohibit the sale of prison-made goods in the Nation's capital. Mr. Gamble said the measure is needed in view of recent complaints that convict-made shirts, underwear and trousers are being sold in Washington on a large scale.

HOUSING PLANS BARRED BY PHILADELPHIA MAYOR

Philadelphia, Pa.—Mayor Robert E. Lamberton refused permission for three projects of the Philadelphia Housing Authority which would cost $19,059,000 and provided low-cost housing for 13,517 slum dwellers.

James J. McDevitt, a member of the Housing Authority and president of the A. F. of L. Building Trades Council, declared the decision meant that 20,000 workers would have obtained jobs will not get them and $6,000,000 in wages will be lost."

SHORTER WAITING PERIOD ON JOB INSURANCE ASKED

Washington, D. C.—Charles M. Ray, counsel for the Railway Labor Executives Association, urged a Senate Interstate Commerce Sub-committee to approve the bill sponsored by the Railway Brotherhoods revising the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act so as to cut from 14 to 7 the number of days a railroad employe would have to wait for unemployment compensation after losing his job.

UNIONIST REINSTATED WITH $200 BACK PAY

Washington, D. C.—The Jacobs Manufacturing Company, Bridgeport, Ala., was ordered by the National Labor Relations Board to cease discriminating against Membership Stove Mounters International Union, Local 80, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The Board also ordered the company to reinstate Marvin W. Hogwood as foreman in its stove mounting department and to award him $200 for any loss of pay he may have suffered. The Board alleged the company discriminatorily discharged Hogwood and thereafter refused to employ him because of his membership in the union.

Executive Council Drafts Planks For Both Major Party Platforms

BLACKSMITHS CELEBRATE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Chicago, Ill.—October, 1890, was an important date for the blacksmiths of the United States and Canada. For that month a number of blacksmiths local unions organized in railroad shops around the country, mostly in the southeast, met at Atlanta and united under the name of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in 1897. In 1903 the union admitted helpers and in 1919 took over the Brotherhood of Drop Forgers, the combined union taking the name International Brotherhood of Blacksmith, Drop Forgers and Helpers.

This year the Brotherhood is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, which President Roy Horn announced will be observed at meetings of the organization's local lodges throughout the United States and Canada. Incidentally President Horn and Secretary-Treasurer William F. Kramer were recently re-elected without opposition by a membership referendum. Mr. Horn has completed 14 years as president and Kramer 31 years as secretary-treasurer.

President Horn, who has been with the union for 40 out of 50 years, in reviewing some of the highlights of the Brotherhood's history, pointed out that as early as 1890 a "Grand Union of Machinists and Blacksmiths" was organized but passed out of existence in 1877. In 1899 a local of blacksmiths was formed in Atlanta which survived and joined with other locals in forming the international organization in 1890.

"The road we've traveled hasn't been an easy one and we have had many severe struggles, but have survived them all," Horn declared. "Today we have contracts with all the railroads in Canada and nearly all in the United States.

"We also have agreements in many fields of manufacturing, on construction projects, in forge plants, hardware factories, transit lines, navy yards, garages, canning and shops and other industries. Of course, we're not resting on our laurels. We're going on into the second century with the intention of bringing the banner of unionism to all of our fellows in the United States and Canada."

NEW UNION PRESIDENT ORDERS HOUSECLEANING

Atlantic City, N. J.—A pledge to rid the organization of "waste, graft and racketeering" was made by William L. McFetridge, newly elected president of the Building Service Employees International Union, following the first meeting of the union's new executive board.

Mr. McFetridge succeeds George Scalise, who resigned from the presidency of the international after his indictment on a charge of extortion brought by District Attorney Dewey in New York.

"It will be the policy of the organization," Mr. McFetridge declared, "to see that no one else in the union is accorded to each and every member and to every affiliated local, and that there will be no such corruption," Mr. McFetridge said. "Everything possible will be done to make the union unorganized and to see to it that the people who come under the jurisdiction receive the benefit of organization in better wages and working conditions.

The convention selected Secretary-Treasurer Paul B. David and First Vice President Thomas J. Burke, both of Chicago. Elected also were three new vice presidents, William Cooper of Minneapolis, Harry Fletcher of Seattle, and Timothy J. Dwyer of St. Louis.

AFL UNIONS CERTIFIED AS BARGAINING AGENTS

Washington, D. C.—The following unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor were certified as bargaining agents by the National Labor Relations Board after the results of elections in which a large majority of the employes voted for the A. F. of L. affiliates:

Oil Workers' Federal Labor Union, Local 22192, in the case of Government Gulf Refining Co., Toledo, Ohio, exclusive of office and supervisory employes, after a three-day ballot election, resulting in 222 votes for the A.F.L. union, and 5 for the CIO Oil Workers' International Union.

Local No. 2643, chartered by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, as the sole collective bargaining agency designated and selected by a majority of the employes in production and maintenance employes of Walton Lumber Company, Inc., Washington, following a secret ballot election in which 16 votes were cast for the A. F. of L. affiliate and one vote for an unaffiliated union.

Committee Will Be Named To Represent AFL at Political Conventions.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green announced the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor during its current session here will appoint a special committee to represent the Federation at the conventions of both major political parties.

One of the major tasks of the Executive Council meeting, Mr. Green said, will be to draft a comprehensive labor plank for inclusion in the platforms of both Democratic and Republican parties.

This announcement foreshadowed relentless opposition by the American Federation of Labor to any third party move and further indicated the determination of the A. F. of L. leadership to maintain the organization's traditional non-partisan political policy.

At a press conference following the first session of the Executive Council, Mr. Green called for cool thinking and restraint to prevent the building up of war psychology such as plunged this country into the World War in 1914. He said:

"The time has come for every one of us to put on mental brakes and to speak carefully in order that we may not lose sight of the paramount importance of maintaining our neutrality. No matter how deeply we resent the aggression of European dictators and sympathize with their victims, we should not forget that this nation must stay out of war."

The Council received a confidential report from the officers of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress on the effect of the war on labor in that country. The report, presented, and R. J. Tallon, Secretary, said that there is unity of opinion and purpose among the people of Canada in support of the Government in its war program.

At the request of the Canadian officials, the Executive Council agreed to award exclusive right to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress to charter central labor bodies in Canada. Similar rights in the A. F. of L. and the Canadian body have been issuing such charters.

BIG ANTI-UNION GROUP FOUGHT BY AFL UNIONS

Aurora, Ill.—The strike waged here by the Mechanics Blacksmiths, Riremen and Oilers, Patternmakers and Teamsters, all A. F. of L. affiliates, against the Western-Knapp Company, a large manufacturer of dump cars, road building equipment and other machinery, has developed into national importance due to the fact the company has supported by the Fox River Valley Manufacturers Association, a notorious anti-labor, open shop" organization.

Last January the A. F. of L. unions won a National Labor Relations Board election at the company's plant by a majority of 386 to 45. Later, the company merged its Harvey, Ill., plant with the Aurora plant and nearly all of the 650 workers joined the union, which began negotiations with the management for wage increases and a signed agreement. The wage increases would restore pay scales which prevailed prior to a reduction two years ago when a speed-up system was introduced in the place of a bonus plan. Reasonable wage increases were refused, agreement refused to grant them, thus forcing the unions to call a strike which was voted by nearly one hundred per cent of the members and tied up the plant.

Charging that the anti-union stand of the company reflects the policies dictated by the Fox River Valley Manufacturers' Association, which is headed by a Western-Austin official, Grand Lodge Representative J. W. Kenney of the Machinists Association, said:

"The association has been known for its tactics in the past. It tries to force employes who want to be fair not to sign agreements with them. It has been responsible for injunction and damage suits against unions; for the importation of 'guards'; for distorted advertisements in the newspapers aimed at inciting mob violence against union men, and for other notorious anti-union practices."

BARGAINING AGENT POLLS ORDERED BY LABOR BOARD

Washington, D. C.—The following elections to select collective bargaining agencies under the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act were ordered held by the National Labor Relations Board within 30 days:

Employes of the warehouse division of Walgreen Co., Chicago, Illinois, to determine whether they desire to be represented by Wholesale and Chain Drug Warehouse Employes Union, Local 20184, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, or by Chicago Drug Workers Association, Inc. (This is a "run-off" election.)

Production employes of L. J. Zerbee and Company, Bellefontaine, Ohio, to determine whether or not they desire to be represented by Upholsterers' International Union of Upholsterers' Local 660, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.